



## School Information

For the post of

### **Headteacher, The Dales School**

The governors and the Local Authority would like to thank you for your interest in this post. We believe that Northumberland is both a beautiful and rewarding place to live and work. You will find enclosed information about the County, the Local Authority and the school, which we hope will encourage you to apply.

If, after reading the enclosed information, you feel you wish to apply for the post, please complete the application form and return it by noon on Friday 2 March 2018 by:

sending the completed application form to [headships@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:headships@northumberland.gov.uk)

or by post to Lisa Headington, Administrative Assistant, Northumberland County Council, Children's Services Directorate, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application.

Mrs Daljit Lally  
Executive Director of Wellbeing and Community Health Services



Type of school:	<i>Special</i>
Age range :	<i>4 - 11</i>
Number on roll:	<i>92</i>
School address:	<i>Cowpen Road, Blyth Northumberland, NE24 4RE</i>
Telephone number:	<i>(01670) 352556</i>
E-mail:	<i>admin@thedales.northumberland.sch.uk</i>
Chair of governors:	<i>Aileen Ewart</i>
Most recent OFSTED inspection:	<i>October 2013</i>

Northumberland is a diverse county with a population of over 300,000 people dispersed over a wide geographical area in primarily rural communities. Northumberland is the 6th largest county in England, covering almost 2,019 square miles, but has one of the smallest populations. Over 66,500 children and young people aged 0 to 19 live in the county, just over 20% of the total resident population.

The town of Blyth, in which the school is located, is a post-industrial town which is undergoing considerable re-generation. The majority of our children are from homes in south-east Northumberland, but we also have children who travel from other parts of the county, requiring longer travel times. The vast majority of children are transported to school by the local authority.

The Council and partners are working to improve preventative approaches and access to early help through increasing the number of early help assessments, team around the family and early help plans. To support this 'Local Early Help Hubs' have been piloted and developed in the Blyth Valley at the initiation of The Dales School. These are now to be 'rolled out' across all 4 regions of Northumberland.

The Dales School caters for Early Years and primary age children with a range of special educational need, or as we prefer to view their need – children who have individual educational challenges. Our children often have to learn to work with us to embrace learning opportunities. They face a range of the challenges, including: Social, emotional and, mental Health; Autistic Spectrum Condition; Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder; Complex Communication Difficulties, and; other complex needs including those which can be described as congenital and medical.

Neither, the Head Teacher or Deputy has a teaching commitment at this time. Their roles are the development of provision and the daily management of the school including Child protection and Safeguarding in conjunction with Social Services and other agencies.

In addition to Teaching and Support Staff, the school employs a range of specialist assistants, including: Speech and Language assistants; a Physiotherapy Assistant; a Family Learning Coordinator; a Family Support Worker, and; an Intervention team coordinator.

Academic progress was graded as Outstanding by OfSTED (Oct 2013). Notwithstanding this, we continually review and, where appropriate, adapt all curriculum areas and their related resourcing, with regard to The National Curriculum and the needs of our children.

As a designated Teaching School and A National Support School, we work to provide opportunities for colleagues, and their respective schools, to develop professionally and support them in pursuit of improvement.

Through Governor visits, regular meetings and, training attended, Governors assist in the effective management of provision at The Dales School.

Governors are looking to appoint from September 2018.